

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03467 131236Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
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O 131200Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3698

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, US, XG

SUBJECT: THE VATICAN AND US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM LODGE

REF: STATE 47955 (EXDIS)

1. AT THE END OF A 45-MINUTE SESSION, CASAROLI RAISED THE SUBJECT OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO TELL ME THAT HE WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND HOPED THAT HE COULD ALWAYS BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THEM. THIS GAVE ME AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THE THOUGHTS IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 6 OF REFTEL. THESE WORDS ATTRACTED HIS ATTENTION AS NOTHING ELSE HAD DURING THE CONVERSATION, NOTABLY THE IDEA THAT OUR AIM WAS TO CONSULT AND BE INFORMED AND NOT TO DOMINATE AND DIRECT -- SURELY NOT AN UNREASONABLE AIM IN THE LIGHT OF THE TREMENDOUSLY DELICATE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR MOST EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE.

2. CASAROLI IS A VERY CAREFUL SPEAKER. AFTER I HAD MADE MY STATEMENT, HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT REALLY VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION AS REGARDS THE US AND EUROPE, BUT THAT THE VATICAN HAD LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN THE UNION OF EUROPE, EVEN THOUGH NOT A PARTY. IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM, HE SAID, THAT "WESTERN EUROPE WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES WAS TOO WEAK TO STAND ALONE." HE ASSUMED THAT THE REVIEW OF THE NATO DECLARATION AND THE PRESI-  
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PAGE 02 ROME 03467 131236Z

DENT'S TRIP TO EUROPE, BOTH OF WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED SOME TIME

AGO, WERE BOTH SUSPENDED.

3. I EXPECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SEE TWO VERY DISTINGUISHED FRENCHMEN WHO UNDOUBTEDLY COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IF THEY CHOSE. ONE IS THE PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE, CARDINAL VILLOT. THE OTHER IS RENE BROUILLET, WHO HAS BEEN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE SINCE JANUARY 1964 AND IS SECOND ONLY TO THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN SENIORITY. HE HAS ACHIEVED A POSITION OF UNUSUAL INFLUENCE HERE. OVER THE YEARS THE FRENCH HAVE SENT A SUCCESSION OF EMINENT MEN TO THE HOLY SEE AND HAVE ATTACHED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO IT. BROUILLET WILL SOON BE LEAVING ROME TO TAKE UP HIS NEW DUTIES IN PARIS AS A MEMBER OF THE CONSEIL CONSTITUTIONNEL. HE HAS A BACKGROUND OF CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH DE GAULLE AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE INTRODUCED POMPIDOU TO DE GAULLE. I HAVE HEARD, BUT AM NOT SURE, THAT HE WILL TAKE THE PLACE ON THE CONSEIL IN PARIS WHICH WAS RECENTLY VACATED BY GASTON PALEWSKI. I HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT BROUILLET WAS DIRECTLY HELPFUL TO OUR EFFORTS HERE TO BRING ABOUT VATICAN ENCOURAGEMENT TO VIGOROUS FRENCH ACTION AGAINST THE HEROIN TRAFFIC.

4. THE ARGUMENT CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 6 OF REFTTEL, NOTABLY THE PART ABOUT CLOSE CONSULTATION TO AVOID MISTAKES, STRUCK CASAROLI AS BEING SO REASONABLE THAT I THINK IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO CONVEY THE SAME THOUGH TO CARDINAL VILLOT AND AMBASSADOR BROUILLET WHEN I SEE THEM. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER YOU CONCUR.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ROME03467  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P740141-1941  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740345/aaaabpwm.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 74 STATE 47955  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE VATICAN AND US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VT, US, XG, (CASAROLI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005